

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

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April 22, 2016

Early Intervention Providers for the First Connections Program:

Annually, each State's Part C program submits an application for Federal funds under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to support States' Early Intervention programs for children, birth to three years, and their families. Prior to submission, the grant application package must be available for public review and comment.

The Department of Human Services / Division of Developmental Disabilities Services / First Connections has developed its draft application for the IDEA Part C funds and, through this notice, is making the application available for review and extended comment period until May 24, 2016, at the following link: http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/ddds/Pages/FirstConnectionsProgram.aspx

Arkansas Part C / First Connections will host a public stakeholder meeting on May 16, 2016, at 1:00p.m. at the Department of Human Services Office, 700 Main Street, Little Rock, AR 72203, 1st floor, Conference Rooms A & B. At this meeting, First Connections will review the content of the 2016 Annual Grant Application and Policy and Procedures. Written comments will be accepted. An outline of the application is attached to assist with your preliminary review.

As space is limited, we ask that each provider bring only two representatives. If you wish to participate in the meeting, please contact LaToya Pettus via email at: latoya.pettus@dhs.arkansas.gov or by phone at (501) 683-6361 to confirm your attendance in order to register you with security to allow access to the building.

There is a DHS daily parking lot available for a flat rate that is located across from the entrance to the DHS/Donaghey South building. Our staff at the meeting can provide a validation card to cover the fee for the DHS lot only. If this lot is full, there are other public lots in the area, in addition to 2 hour parking meters. For those unable to attend the public meeting, written public comments on the draft Part C application may be submitted from April 25, 2016 until the close of business on May 24, 2016, to the attention of Tracy Turner, Part C Coordinator (address below) or may be sent by fax or e-mail: (fax) 501-683-4745 (e-mail) Tracy.Turner@dhs.arkansas.gov.

Thanks for all you do for the families we serve. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you on May 16, 2016.

Tracy Turner, Part C Coordinator

DHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, Early Intervention Program P. O. Box 1437, Slot N504 Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437